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California State Senate

SENATOR
SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER COMMITTEE



FACT SHEET

SB 1384 (Kuehl) **Exposition Light Rail Construction Authority**

Senate Bill 1384 amends SB 504 (Kuehl, 2003), a bill that created the Exposition Construction Authority (Authority) in order to facilitate the construction of the Expo Light Rail Project in Los Angeles. Senate Bill 504 mirrored SB 1847 (Schiff, 1998), which created the Gold Line Construction Authority that successfully built the Gold Line from Downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena.

As a result of SB 504, the Exposition Construction Authority convened in July, 2005 and has met monthly since then. The current schedule calls for utility relocation and pre-construction activities to commence this summer with the actual construction of the line to start in the spring of 2007. The project will be developed in two phases. The first phase of the project encompasses 8.5 miles of construction that begins in downtown Los Angeles at 7th/Metro Center in the financial district. The rail route then heads south around the University of Southern California and west along the Exposition right-of-way through the Mid-City area to the center of Culver City. The project includes upgrades of 2 downtown stations and 8 new stations.

The second phase encompasses a 7 mile route that begins in Culver City and ends in Santa Monica. A future environmental study will determine the exact alignment and details of that route. When completed, the rail line will help to relieve east-west congestion between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) estimates that the Exposition Light Rail will be one of the most heavily traveled in the country, with 72,000 riders per day.

Senate Bill 1384 reflects lessons learned since SB 504 became law by modestly expanding the Authority's responsibilities and clarifying the duties of the Authority and the MTA.

SB 1384 does the following:

- Gives the Authority the ability to conduct the environmental studies necessary for the planning of phase two of the project from Culver City to Santa Monica;
- Clarifies that the Authority will be responsible for constructing all phases of the project and that the MTA will operate all phases as they are completed;
- Gives the Authority and the MTA the ability to formulate their own agreements on how all real and personal property and other assets will be held during construction; and
- Clarifies that the MTA will provide and administer the rail cars needed for the project.

This legislation will assist the Authority in the planning (with the MTA) and construction of the Exposition Light Rail Project from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica and will enable the project to be built quickly and efficiently.

For more information, please contact: Laurie Newman, District Office of Senator Kuehl
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